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ELEKTRA
Assassin

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Elektra created by Frank Miller

ELEKTRA assassin

—THE LOST YEARS—

S.H.I.E.L.D. ROBOT AGENT PROGRAM AN "OBSCENITY", SAYS KEN WIND

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Democratic Presidential Candidate Ken Wind declared that the United Nations espionage agency S.H.I.E.L.D. is "violating the basic human rights of its employees" by "converting them into Frankenstein monsters". Wind's statement was made at a press conference today.

S.H.I.E.L.D.'s ExTechOp Division equips field operatives with prosthetic limbs and organs. A Senate vote on funding for ExTechOp is expected later this week.

"The emotional stress on these poor men and women must be hideous," Wind said. "It is symptomatic of the present administration's total disrespect for human dignity that the incumbent supports this obscenity," he said.

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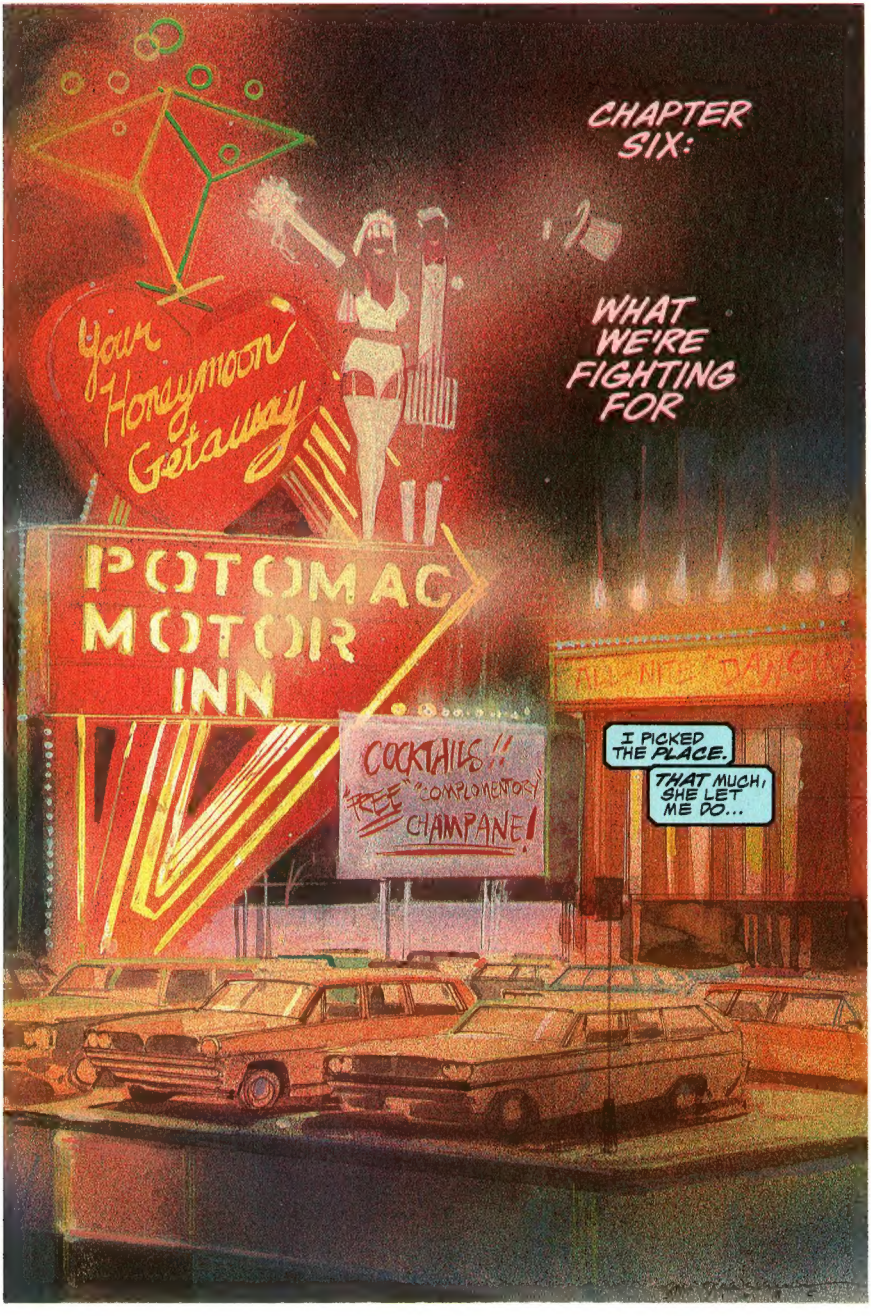
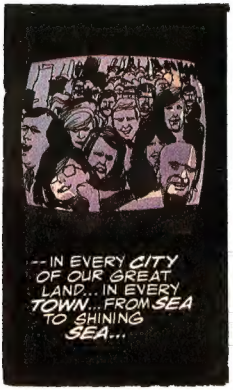

CHAPTER SIX:
WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
Your Honeymoon Getaway
POTOMAC MOTOR INN
COCKTAILS!!
"FREE" "COMPLIMENTARY" CHAMPANE!
I PICKED THE PLACE.
THAT MUCH, SHE LET ME DO...

...SAID SHE TRUSTED ME TO FIND A HIDEOUT WHERE NOBODY WOULD LOOK FOR HER.
...CHRIST, LOOK AT HER DOWN THERE...
SHE DIDN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD, OF COURSE...
...HEART-SHAPED WATER-BED, JUST LIKE THEY ADVERTISE...
...NO, SHE WOULDN'T TALK OUT LOUD. THAT'S TOO OBVIOUS FOR ELEKTRA.
SUPER-POWERED NINJA--THAT'S RIGHT, NINJA, AS IN ASSASSIN--THEY TALK TO YOU IN YOUR HEAD.
AT LEAST THIS ONE DOES.
AND SHE READS MY MIND.
SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S DOING TO ME.
SHE THINKS IT'S FUNNY.
TEN HOURS NOW, SHE'S BEEN SLEEPING...
...TEN HOURS--AND SHE SHIFTS AND SIGHS JUST OFTEN ENOUGH TO KEEP MY INTEREST UP.
MY INTEREST.
THE COMPLIMENTARY PINK CHAMPAGNE ISN'T HELPING.

LISTEN TO THEM, CHUCK. I MEAN, SHIT--
--THEY'VE BEEN PISSING AND MOANING SINCE THE PANAMA CANAL.
SCARED SHITLESS, THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE...
I COULDN'T DISOBEY A DIRECT ORDER FROM COLONEL FURY, MARION.
THAT WOULD BE GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL.
DISMISSAL? WE'LL BE LUCKY IF HE DOESN'T HAVE US UP FOR TREASON, HAROLD!
HE'S JUST NOT BUYING OUR COVER--HE WANTS TO KNOW GARRETT'S HISTORY--AND HE WANTS TO SEE PERRY.
YES, YES. AND, BEING A MILITARY MAN...
...THE COLONEL IS INSENSITIVE TO CERTAIN UNPLEASANT NECESSITIES OF MODERN ESPIONAGE--
--AND WE HAVE MADE CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS OF PERSONNEL THAT WERE, TECHNICALLY, UNAUTHORIZED...
HAROLD--IF FURY FINDS OUT WHO PERRY IS...
CAN'T STAND IT WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I'M NOT HERE--
BE CALM, PERRY.
YES, YES. WE MIGHT WELL FIND THE COLONEL UNRECEPTIVE.
LET THE DOCTORS CHATTER. THEY DO NOT MATTER. NO.
YOU ARE ALL THAT MATTERS.
ONLY YOU, CHERISHED ONE.
SOON THEY WILL REBUILD YOU.
MAKE YOU MIGHTY.
RIGHT, RIGHT. I CAN'T KICK.
GET IT, CHUCK? I MEAN, NO BODY--I MEAN, NO LEGS--
--CAN'T KICK --GET IT?--

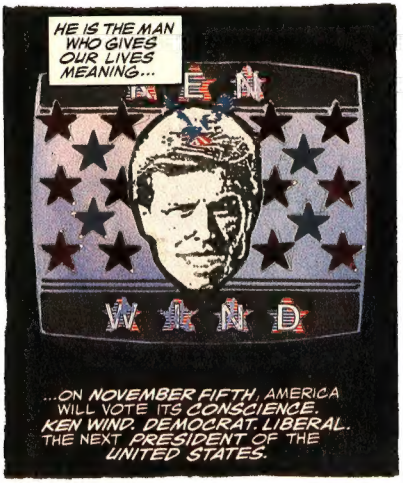
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT ELEKTRA DIDN'T STOP ME FROM ORDERING UP SOME PROPER BOOZE.
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT SHE'S TAKING ANOTHER BATH.
HER FOURTH.
AND THIS ONE TAKES LONGER THAN THE OTHERS.
THE SOUNDS SHE MAKES...
...THE VIEW, I DO MY BEST...
...NOT TO GET...
...OH, JESUS...
...JESUS...
...YOU'D THINK THERE WASN'T A MAN IN THE ROOM.
HELL, MAYBE THERE ISN'T.
JUST AN EX-SPY MIND SLAVE.
IN HEAT.
THE MOVIES DON'T HELP...
WHAT IS THIS THING YOU CALL LOVE?...
...WHY DO YOU TOUCH...ME THERE?...
KLIK
OH, OFFICER--I'D DO ANYTHING NOT TO GET A TICKET...
ANYTH
KLIK
...MOVIES LIKE THIS ARE THE LAST THING I NEED.
I KEEP FLIPPING THE CHANNELS AND LOOKING FOR FILMS OF AUSCHWITZ--ANYTHING TO TAKE MY MIND OFF HER...
...OFF THE SOAP, DRIBBLING ACROSS--
PERRY.
...YES, SIR. I GIVE EXCELLENT... DICTATION...
KLIK
RIGHT. PERRY.
THINK ABOUT PERRY.
THINK ABOUT PERRY AND MAYBE YOU'LL COOL OFF ENOUGH TO STAND UP WITHOUT EMBARAS-ING YOURSELF, GARRETT.
PERRY. SHE KILLED HIM.
--YES OH YES OH
KLIK
AND HE PAID ME A VISIT.

...YES, SIR, IT'S A HUGE... ACCOUNT...
KLIK
PERRY AND I GET ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE AN ASSASSINATION.
THE ASSASSIN SHOVES PERRY'S BAYONET INTO HIS SKULL--
--DRYING HERSELF OFF.
DON'T MISS A SPOT, NOW, HONEY...
...PERRY.
PAID ME A VISIT WITH THE BAYONET STILL IN HIS HEAD.
SAID HE WAS COMING BACK TO LIFE.
CRAZY... MUST'VE BEEN HALLUCINATING. THE AGENCY COULDN'T HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY. NOT YET.
HERE SHE COMES.
SEEN BETTER.
NOW, OH--
KLIK
--AND NOW THE NEWS...
GOTTEN AROUND.
SEEN BETTER.
DON'T GIVE A DAMN.
SHIT.
ORGANIZED SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL...
DON'T HAVE TO SIT SO CLOSE.
...WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK...
THE T.V. GETS LOUDER, LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO DURING COMMERCIALS.
MUSIC PLAYS-- AN ORCHESTRAL VERSION OF "BLOWIN' IN THE WIND", DISGUISED ENOUGH TO AVOID A LAWSUIT.
IT'S THE THEME SONG-- OF HER NEXT TARGET...
CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?--


--IN EVERY CITY OF OUR GREAT LAND... IN EVERY TOWN... FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA...

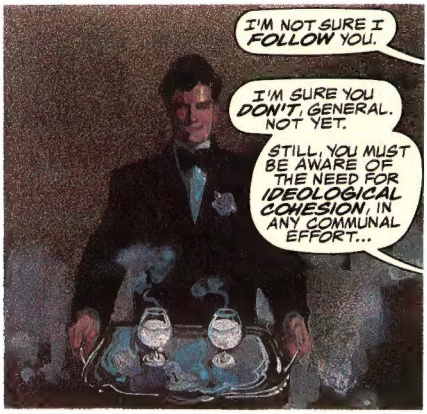
...A NEW SPIRIT IS RISING IN AMERICA... A NEW HOPE IS GROWING ...A NEW AGE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...

...ON NOVEMBER FIFTH, AMERICANS WILL MAKE HISTORY --SAYING NO TO DESPAIR AND SUSPICION--
--SAYING YES--TO LOVE...
STUDY HIM GARRETT.


HE IS THE MAN WHO GIVES OUR LIVES MEANING...
...ON NOVEMBER FIFTH, AMERICA WILL VOTE ITS CONSCIENCE. KEN WIND. DEMOCRAT. LIBERAL. THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

YOU'RE THE LAST MAN I EXPECTED TO VISIT, MR. WIND. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
PLEASE, GENERAL --CALL ME KEN.
I THINK WE'LL BE GREAT FRIENDS.

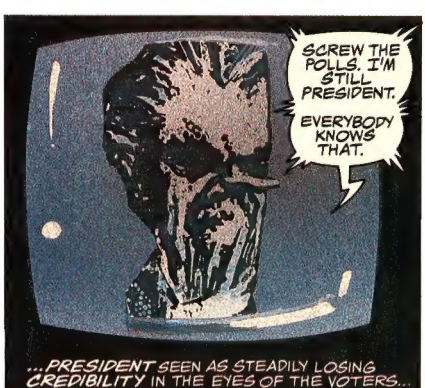
MR. WIND--YOU WANT TO CUT MY BUDGET TO SHREDS. YOU'RE FIGHTING FUNDING FOR EXTECHOP.
PARDON ME IF I CAN'T SEE US AS FRIENDS.
KEN. PLEASE.
REORIENTING SENATE OPINION ON EXTECHOP WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TEST OF MY POLITICAL EFFICACY.
BESIDES... ESPIONAGE IS SOMEWHAT BESIDE THE POINT, ISN'T IT?


I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOU.
I'M SURE YOU DON'T, GENERAL. NOT YET.
STILL, YOU MUST BE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR IDEOLOGICAL COHESION, IN ANY COMMUNAL EFFORT...

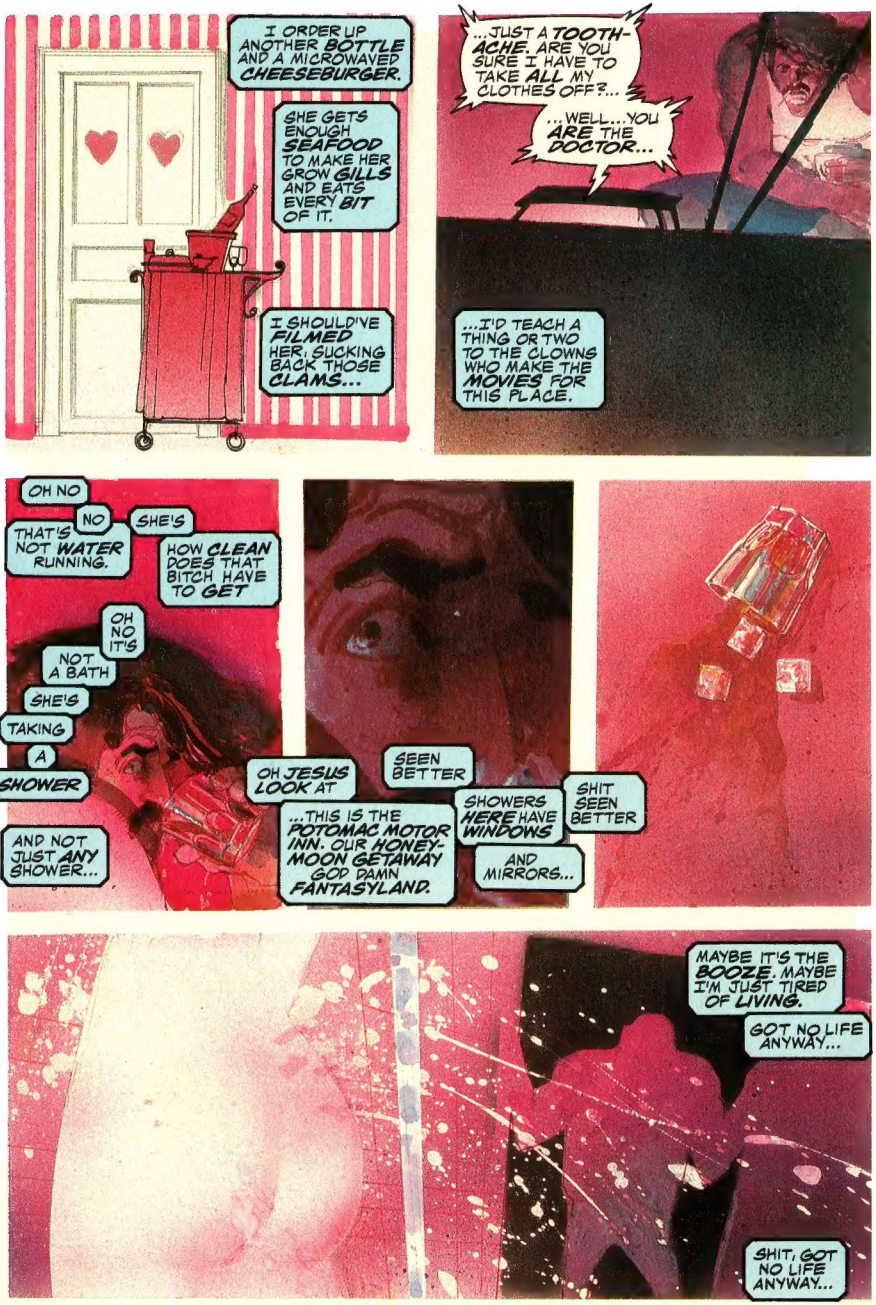
...GATHERING OF THE TROOPS, YOU MIGHT SAY...
I COULD NEVER HAVE FORMED THE NECESSARY SOCIO-ETHNIC COALITION OF VOTING AMERICANS WITHOUT GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF A RECOGNIZABLE POLITICAL STANCE.
HELL OF A WAY TO TALK, MR. WIND.

KEN. KEN.
WAR HAS BECOME A DIFFICULT IDEA TO SELL, MY FRIEND. LUCKILY, IT NO LONGER REQUIRES PUBLIC SUPPORT.

NOBODY WANTS A --WHAT IS THIS?
YOU'LL FIND IT STIMULATING.


SCREW THE POLLS. I'M STILL PRESIDENT.
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT.
...PRESIDENT SEEN AS STEADILY LOSING CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF THE VOTERS...

REMEMBER, AMERICA-- NOT WIND LIKE A WATCH...
...BUT WIND-- LIKE THE AIR...
...WHILE SUPPORT FOR CHALLENGER KEN WIND HAS REACHED A NEARLY RELIGIOUS INTENSITY...

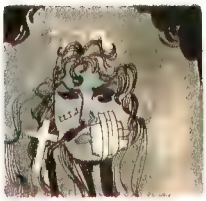

I ORDER UP ANOTHER BOTTLE AND A MICROWAVED CHEESEBURGER.
SHE GETS ENOUGH SEAFOOD TO MAKE HER GROW GILLS AND EATS EVERY BIT OF IT.
I SHOULD'VE FILMED HER, SUCKING BACK THOSE CLAMS...
...JUST A TOOTH-ACHE. ARE YOU SURE I HAVE TO TAKE ALL MY CLOTHES OFF?...
...WELL...YOU ARE THE DOCTOR...
...I'D TEACH A THING OR TWO TO THE CLOWNS WHO MAKE THE MOVIES FOR THIS PLACE.
OH NO
NO
SHE'S
THAT'S NOT WATER RUNNING.
HOW CLEAN DOES THAT BITCH HAVE TO GET
OH NO IT'S
NOT A BATH
SHE'S
TAKING
A
SHOWER
AND NOT JUST ANY SHOWER...
OH JESUS LOOK AT
...THIS IS THE POTOMAC MOTOR INN. OUR HONEY-MOON GETAWAY GOD DAMN FANTASYLAND.
SEEN BETTER
SHOWERS HERE HAVE WINDOWS
AND MIRRORS...
SHIT SEEN BETTER
MAYBE IT'S THE BOOZE. MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED OF LIVING.
GOT NO LIFE ANYWAY...
SHIT, GOT NO LIFE ANYWAY...

VIDEO MEMORANDUM TO COLONEL FURY, AGENT CHASTITY MCBRYDE, DICTATING. GIVEN ***EXTECHOPIS*** FAILURE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH PERSONAL HISTORY INFORMATION ON SPECIAL AGENT ***JOHN GARRETT***...

S.H.I.E.L.D

...AND GIVEN GARRETT'S APPARENT PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE ***KEN WIND***, I HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF MY LIMITED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH MY OWN KNOWLEDGE OF GARRETT'S ***PAST*** --AND ***CHARACTER***.

...SIR? YES, SIR. THEY TELL ME I'M HEALING **QUICKLY**--AND PROMISE THAT I'LL BE READY FOR MORE **PORTABLE** LIFE SUPPORT BY **TOMORROW**. THANK YOU FOR ASKING, COLONEL.



...YES, SIR. THAT WAS A **BEWILDERING** EPISODE. THE **PSYCHIC** POWERS EMPLOYED BY THE WOMAN MAY MITIGATE THE CHARGES OF **TREASON** AND **MURDER** PLACED AGAINST JOHN GARRETT.

...YES, SIR, OF COURSE, SIR. I FIRST MET GARRETT WHILE ON ASSIGNMENT IN **LIBYA**. IN A COMBAT SITUATION, I WITNESSED HIS SUPERLATIVE PHYSICAL SKILL AND TACTICAL INGENUITY.

HE IS AN EXCELLENT MARKSMAN, AND UNUSUALLY ADEPT WITH AGENCY TECHNOLOGY. DESPITE HIS ARROGANT, OFFENSIVE MANNER--AND HIS LACK OF ATTENTION TO AGENCY PROCEDURE OR PERSONAL HYGIENE--HE IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY CAPABLE OPERATIVE.

I MUST REMARK HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MY FOLLOWING ACTIONS--

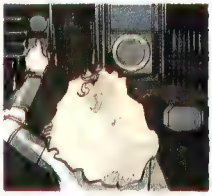
--THAT HIS BEHAVIOR WHILE OFF-DUTY WAS ALARMINGLY UNPROFESSIONAL AND IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF **SHIELD'S** STANDARDS OF INTER-AGENT SOCIAL CONDUCT.

IN THE INTERESTS OF INTERNAL SECURITY, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF INVESTIGATING HIS RECORD IN THE INFORMATION BANKS.

TO MY SURPRISE, I FOUND NO RECORD OF GARRETT IN THE CENTRAL PERSONNEL FILE. I BROUGHT THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS SUPERIORS IN THE AGENCY'S CYBORG DIVISION, **EXTECHOP**.

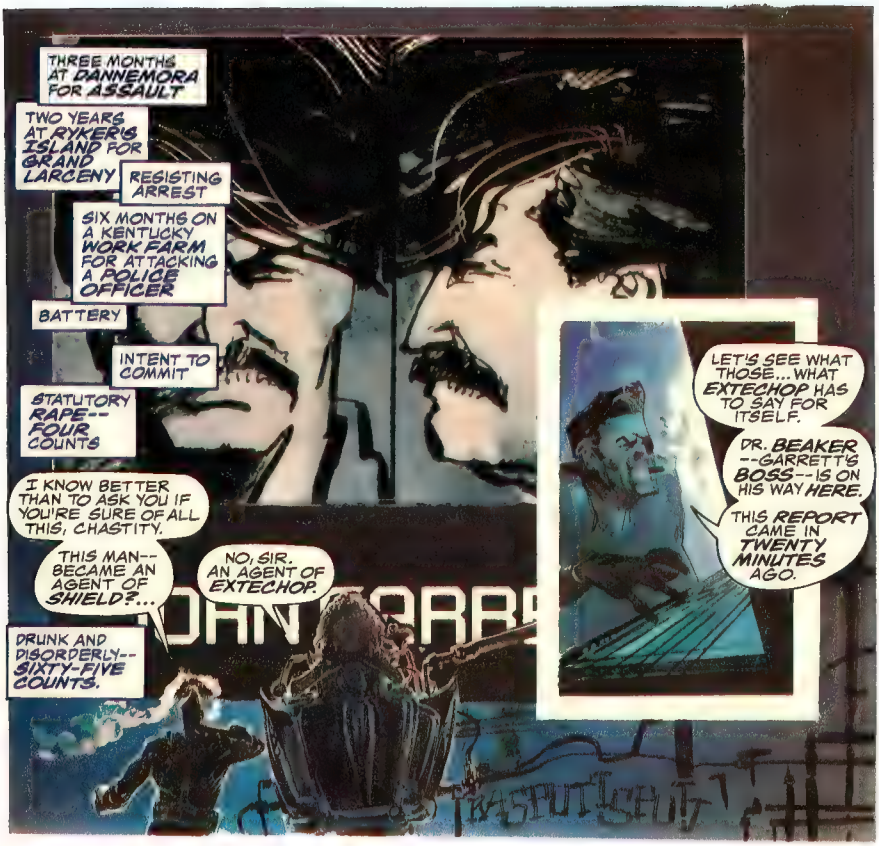
I RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM **EXTECHOP**, AND WAS IN FACT, SWIFTLY REASSIGNED TO A MINOR POLICE ACTION IN VENEZUELA...YES, SIR, I FILED A COMPLAINT TO YOUR OFFICE. IT WAS NEVER DELIVERED.

DURING AN IMPOSED FURLOUGH, TWO MONTHS LATER, I CONTINUED MY INVESTIGATION, USING THE AGENCY'S **CENTRAL COMMAND COMPUTER FACILITY**.



IT WAS ONLY BY CROSS-REFERENCING LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDS FROM SEVEN STATES...

...THAT I WAS ABLE TO COMPILE THE FOLLOWING HISTORY OF JOHN GARRETT'S CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.



PROGRESS REPORT, VIDEO, **EXTECHOP** DIVISION, SAN CONCEPCION BRANCH, DR. HAROLD BEAKER, DIRECTOR, DICTATING, EN ROUTE TO **SHIELD AIRBORNE COMMAND.**

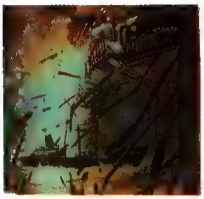
S.H.I.E.L.D

OUR EXPLANATION OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL POSSIBILITIES OF FIELD DEPLOYMENT OF PROSTHETIC-EQUIPPED OPERATIVES HAS BENEFITED FROM CIRCUMSTANCE--AND FROM OUR UNSHAKEABLE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN **LIFE.**

IF NOT FOR DEDICATED EFFORTS--WHICH EFFECTED **STARTLING** PROGRESS HERE AT THE SAN CONCEPCION BASE--TWO OF OUR FINEST OPERATIVES WOULD NOW BE **DEAD.**

FIRST, SPECIAL AGENT **JOHN GARRETT,** WHOSE ARTIFICIAL **ARM** IS REPRESENTATIVE OF **EXTECHOP** CAPABILITY AS OF ONE YEAR AGO...

...WAS CAUGHT IN AN EXPLOSION OF **MUNITIONS** AT SAN CONCEPCION HARBOR (FOR DETAILS, SEE **OPERATION SCRAMBLED EGGS**).



OUR CRACK MEDICAL TEAM WORKED QUICKLY, PLACING GARRETT ON **COMPLETE STATIONARY LIFE SUPPORT.** THIS ALONE WAS A **REMARKABLE** ACHIEVEMENT--

--SINCE **EIGHTY PER CENT** OF GARRETT'S **BODY,** INCLUDING HIS **LIMBS** AND MOST OF HIS VITAL **ORGANS,** HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

WORKING TIRELESSLY, OUR ENGINEERS SUCCESSFULLY REPLACED NOT ONLY HIS ARMS AND LEGS, BUT HIS **SPINE, NERVOUS SYSTEM, HEART, LIVER,** AND **LUNGS.**

THEIR REVOLUTIONARY WORK ENABLED GARRETT TO RESUME HIS DUTIES WITHIN THE SPACE OF **HOURS**--WITH **SUPERIOR** PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES.

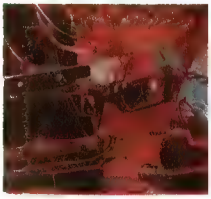
THE METAL **ALLOYS** IN HIS **BONES** AND PLASTIC **COMPOUNDS** THAT COMPOSE HIS **SKIN** HAVE GIVEN HIM EXTRAORDINARY PHYSICAL **RESILIENCE**--

--AND HIS NEW **MUSCULAR SYSTEM,** WITH ITS COMBINATION OF **PNEUMATICS** AND INTERNALLY GENERATED **ELECTRICAL** POWER, HAVE GIVEN HIM VASTLY AMPLIFIED **STRENGTH.**

BUT, **GLORIOUSLY,** OUR **TRIUMPH** WITH AGENT **GARRETT** IS **DWARFED** BY THE **SUCCESS** WE ARE POISED TO ACCOMPLISH IN EXTO-CHOP'S LONG-RANGE GOAL OF CREATING THE **SUPER-AGENT.**

GARRETT'S **PARTNER,** AGENT **ARTHUR PERRY,** HAS BEEN AN **EXAMPLE** TO HIS FELLOW OPERATIVES --**CAPABLE, LOYAL, FEARLESS,** A **TRUE** PATRIOT.

HE WAS **MURDERED** AND **MUTILATED** AT THE SCENE OF THE **MUNITIONS** EXPLOSION. HIS **BRAIN** ITSELF WAS **CUT OPEN** AND **GOUGED** BY A **BAYONET.**

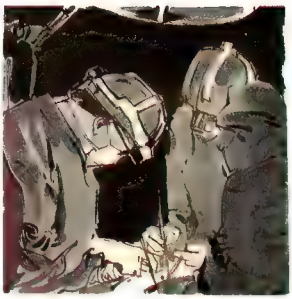


THIS, AND THE **FIRES,** LEFT PERRY REDUCED TO LITTLE MORE THAN A HUMAN **HEAD** AND THE BURNT HUSK OF A **SKELETON.**

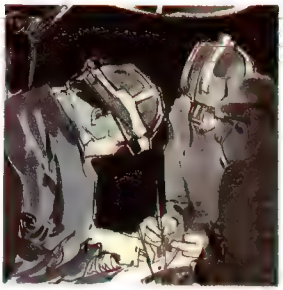
AS **TRAGIC** A LOSS AS THIS SEEMED TO BE, I WAS **INSPIRED** TO SEE MY STAFF **RALLY,** TO ATTEMPT THE HITHERTO TECHNOLOGICALLY **IMPOSSIBLE** --THE **REVIVICATION** OF **ARTHUR PERRY.**

THERE ARE *TIMES*, COLONEL, AS I'M SURE YOU *KNOW*, WHEN THE AMERICAN *FIGHTING SPIRIT* CAN BRING ABOUT *MIRACLES*. THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

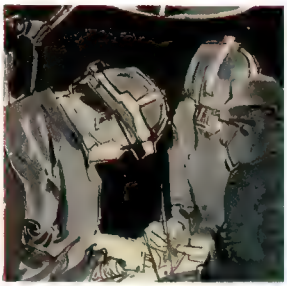
I MUST ADMIT THAT I AM BROUGHT TO *TEARS* WHEN I THINK OF THE *THIRTY HOURS* OF UNRELIEVED *LABOR* BY OUR *TECHNO-SURGERY* TEAMS. NOT *ONCE* DID I HEAR A COMPLAINT.



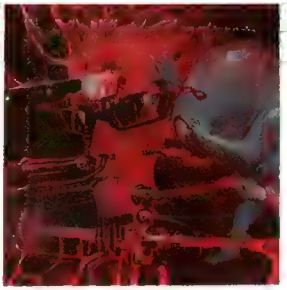
UNFLAGGINGLY, THESE FINE MEN AND WOMEN--THESE *HEROES*--I SWEAR, SIR, *NEVER* A COMPLAINT--EMPLOYED *CIRCUIT GRAFTS*, REPLACING DESTROYED *CEREBRAL* MATTER WITH *COMPUTER* COMPONENTS.



PERRY WAS PROVIDED WITH ARTIFICIAL *FRONTAL LOBES*, AND A COMPLETELY DIGITALIZED *OPTIC SYSTEM*. *BRAIN ACTIVITY* WAS RESTORED BY A SERIES OF ELECTRIC *SHOCKS*.



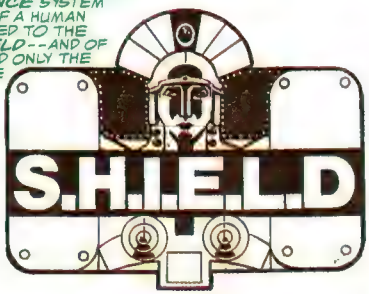
PERRY REGAINED *CONSCIOUSNESS* WITH NO APPARENT LOSS OF *REASON* OR *MEMORY*. HE HAS SIGNED A *RELEASE* GIVING US *COMPLETE FREEDOM* IN RECONSTRUCTING HIS *BODY*.



THIS IS, OBVIOUSLY, AN *UNPRECEDENTED* OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR DIVISION. INSTEAD OF A MUTILATED *CORPSE*, WE HAVE THE *RAW MATERIAL*--AND HAVE DEVELOPED THE *TECHNIQUES*--

THIS IS MORE THAN I *HOPED* FOR--AND EVERYTHING I *NEED* TO GET THE *FUNDING* FOR EXTECHOP.

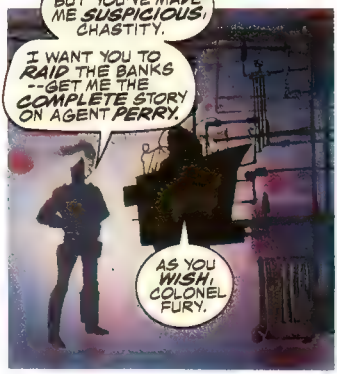
--TO MANUFACTURE A *WEAPONS* AND *SURVEILLANCE* SYSTEM WITH THE *MIND* OF A HUMAN *AGENT*, DEDICATED TO THE *GOALS* OF *SHIELD*--AND OF AMERICA. WE NEED ONLY THE FACILITIES OF THE *HELICARRIER* TO MAKE THIS DREAM A *REALITY*.



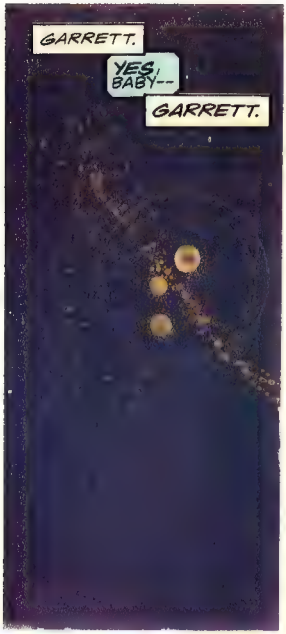
BUT YOU'VE MADE ME *SUSPICIOUS*, CHASTITY.

I WANT YOU TO *RAID* THE BANKS --GET ME THE *COMPLETE* STORY ON AGENT *PERRY*.

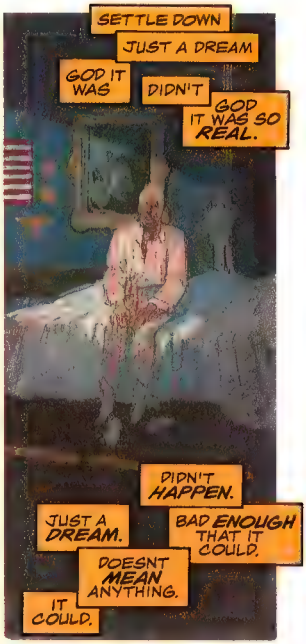
AS YOU *WISH*, COLONEL FURY.



YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK-- STRONGER THAN ME--
--IMPOSSIBLE--
--YOU THROW ME DOWN ON A CEMENT FLOOR--
--FLOORS ARE CARPETED HERE--
--THERE ISN'T AN INCH OF ME THAT ISN'T BLEEDING-- STILL YOU FIND MORE WAYS I CAN HURT--
--YOU PUNISH ME--
--HUMILIATE ME--
--I BEG YOU--
--NOT TO STOP--


GARRETT.
YES, BABY--
GARRETT.

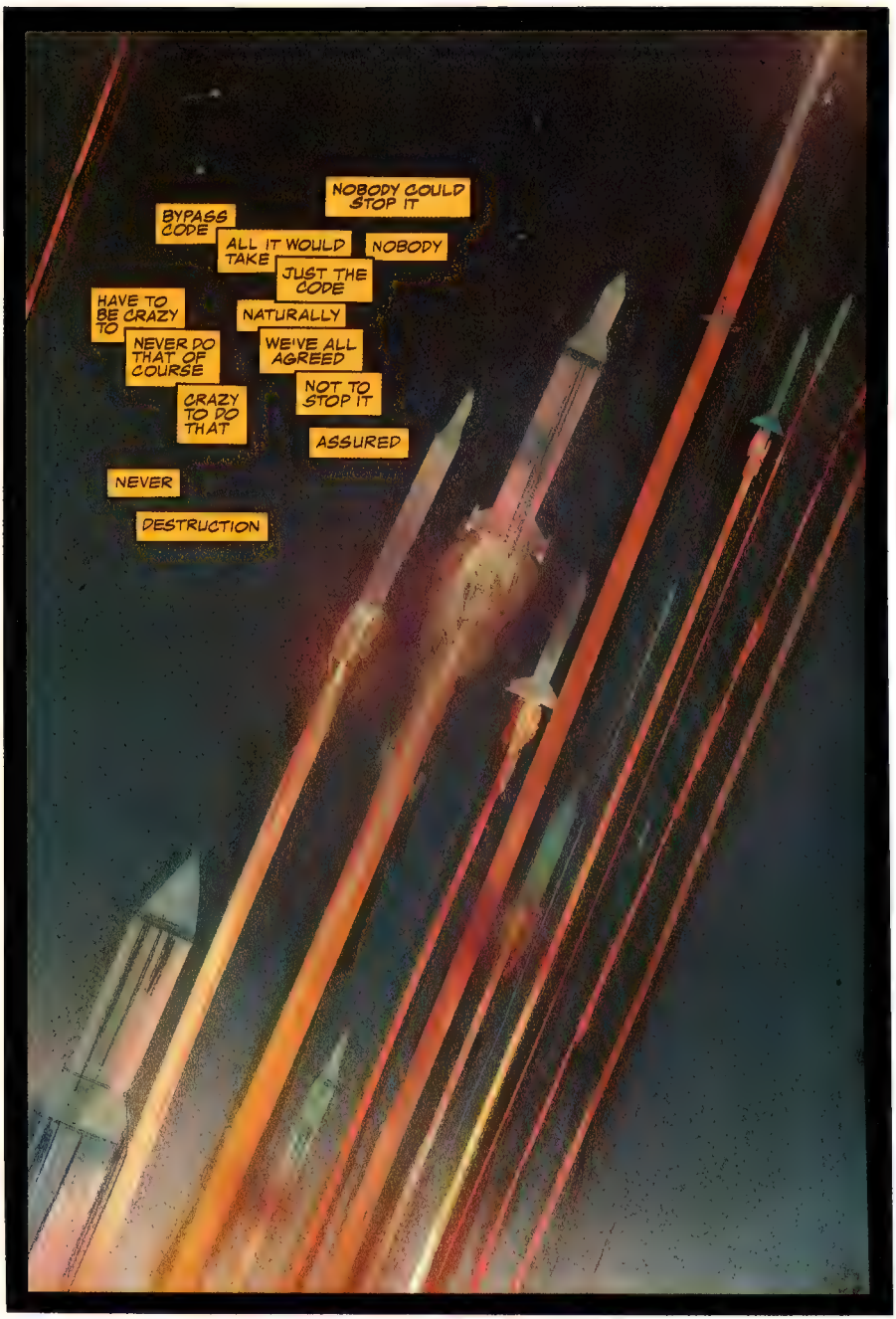
YOU'RE DREAMING, GARRETT.
WAKE UP.

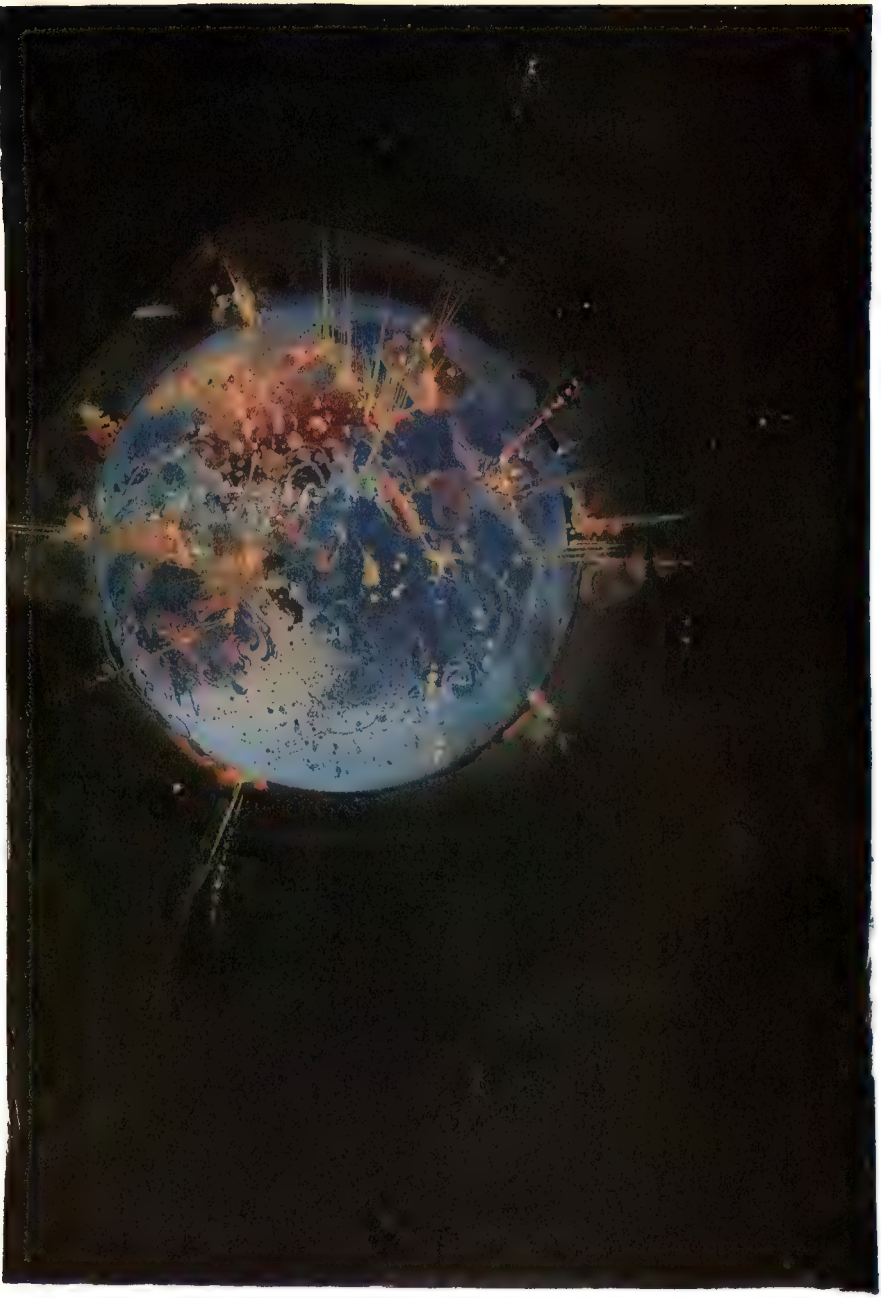

SETTLE DOWN
JUST A DREAM
GOD IT WAS
DIDN'T
GOD IT WAS SO REAL.
DIDN'T HAPPEN.
JUST A DREAM.
BAD ENOUGH THAT IT COULD.
DOESNT MEAN ANYTHING.
IT COULD.

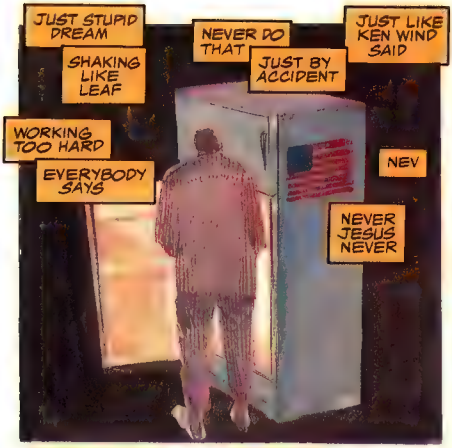
WORKING TOO HARD.
DON'T RELAX ENOUGH.
EVERYBODY TELLS ME THAT.
BUT IT COULD HAPPEN.
JUST LIKE KEN WIND SAID.
WHEN
WHEN HE GAVE ME THAT DRINK.
COULD HAPPEN
COULD.
I COULD USE THE BYPASS CODE.
THE ONE WE DESIGNED IN CASE
IN CASE THE PRESIDENT WOULDN'T

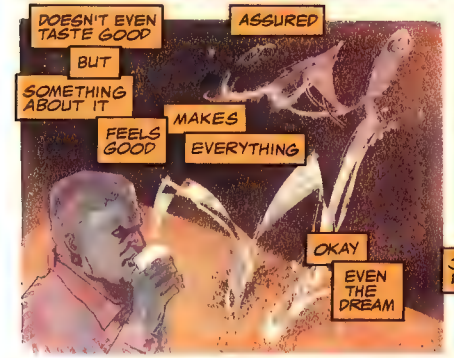
LAUNCH
THAT'S WHAT
JUST
JUST BY ACCIDENT
OR COULDN'T
I COULD PUNCH IT IN BY

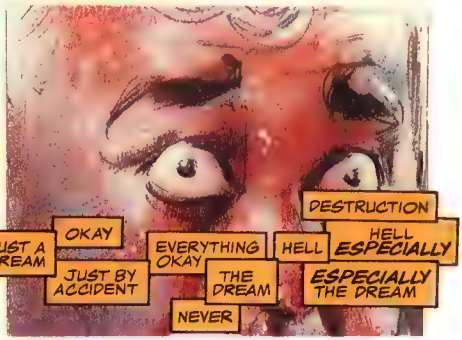
THAT'S WHAT KEN WIND SAID
STEADY
JUST A DREAM
NO
A NIGHTMARE

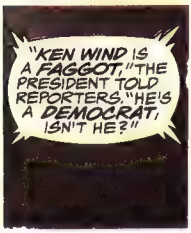

NOBODY COULD STOP IT
BYPASS CODE
ALL IT WOULD TAKE
NOBODY
JUST THE CODE
HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO
NATURALLY
NEVER DO THAT OF COURSE
WE'VE ALL AGREED
NOT TO STOP IT
CRAZY TO DO THAT
ASSURED
NEVER
DESTRUCTION





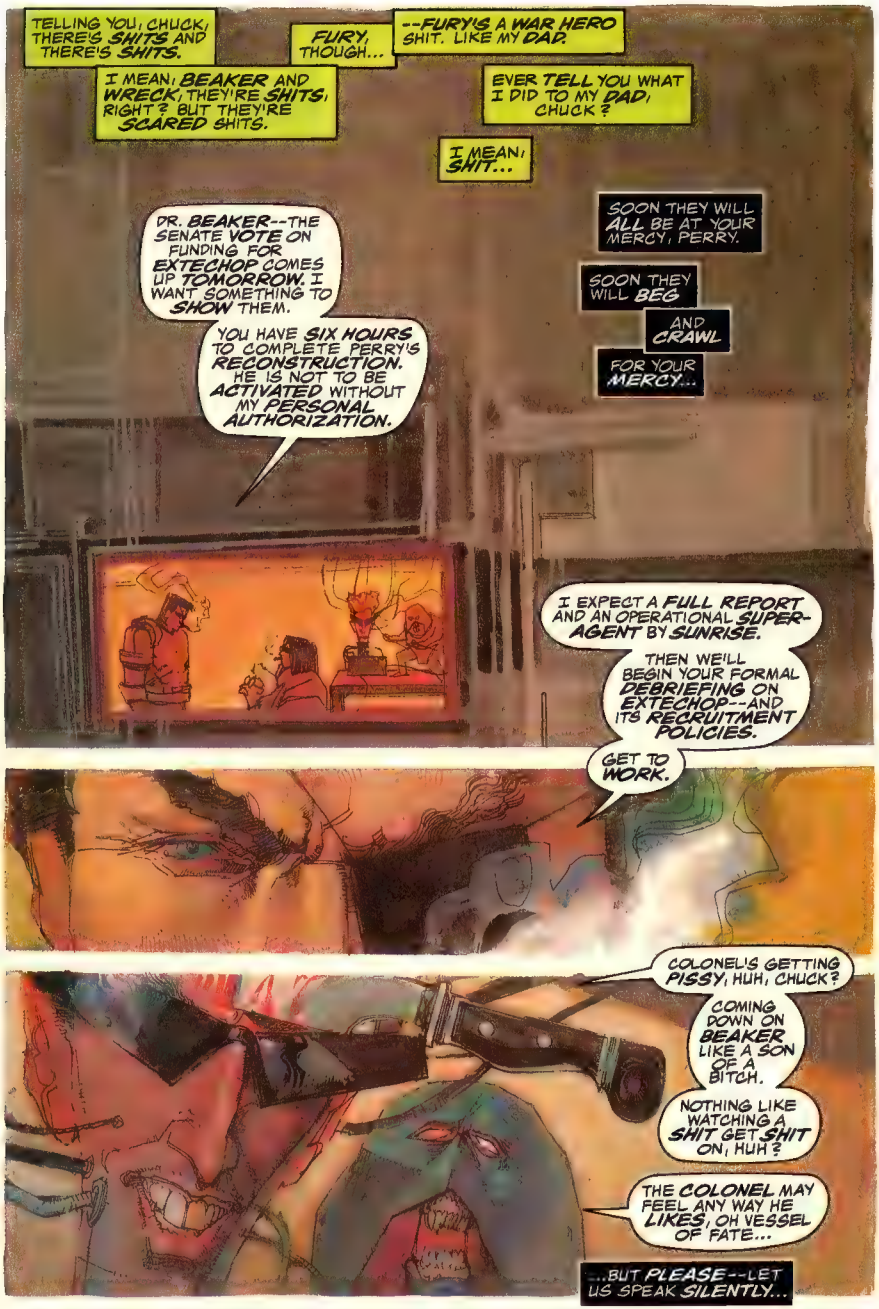


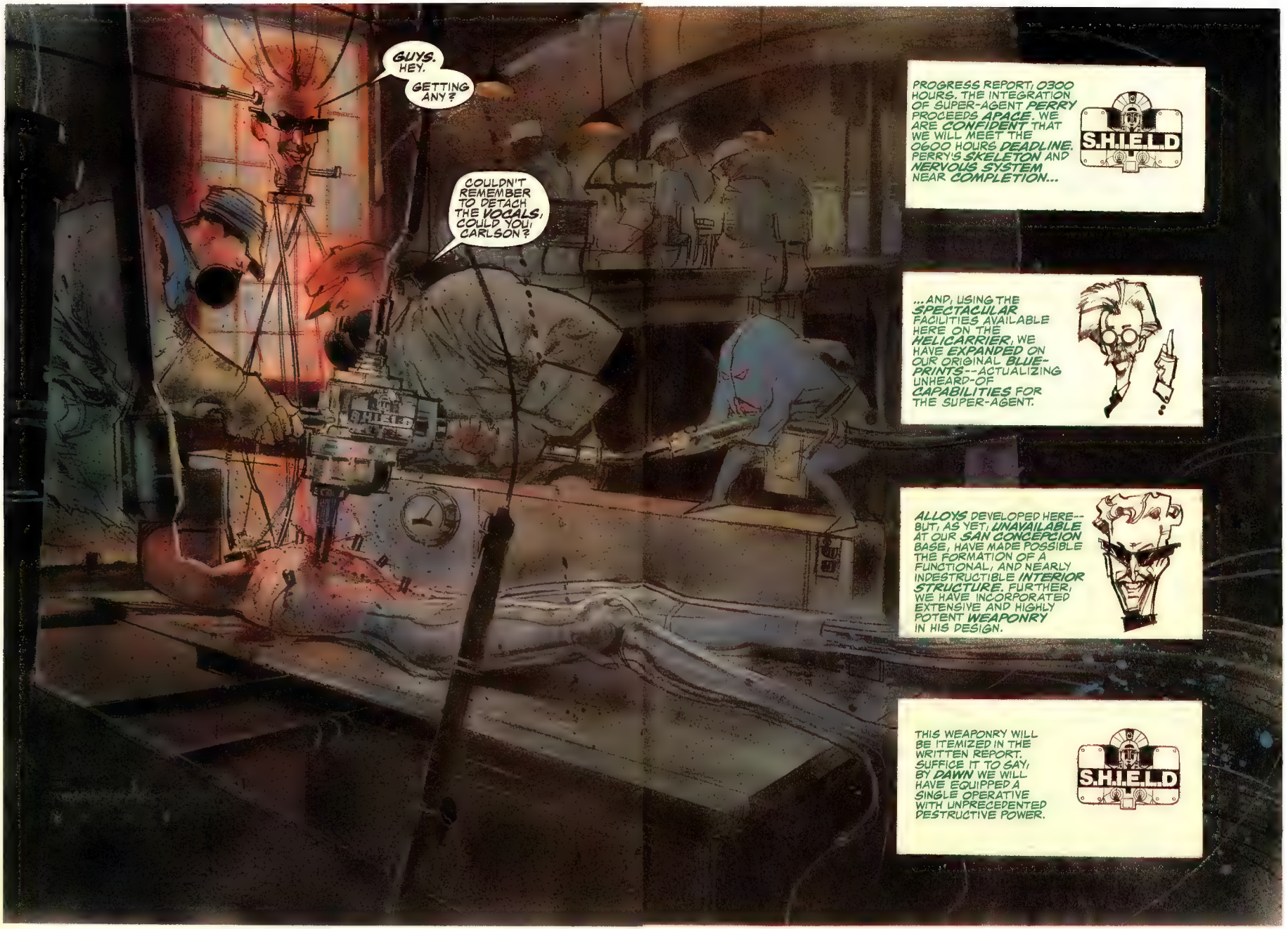




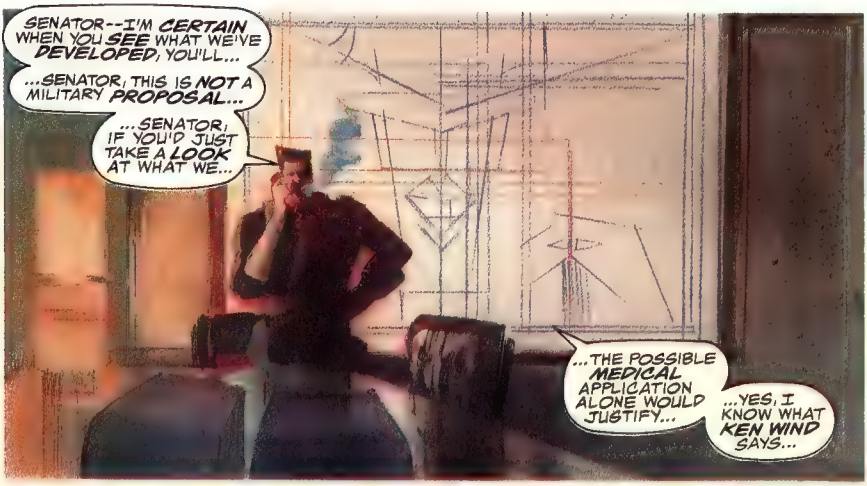
"...HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM GREEN BERETS ONE YEAR BEFORE HIS ENLISTMENT IN SHIELD. PRELIMINARY BANK SEARCH FINDS NOTHING QUESTIONABLE IN ARTHUR PERRY'S HISTORY.

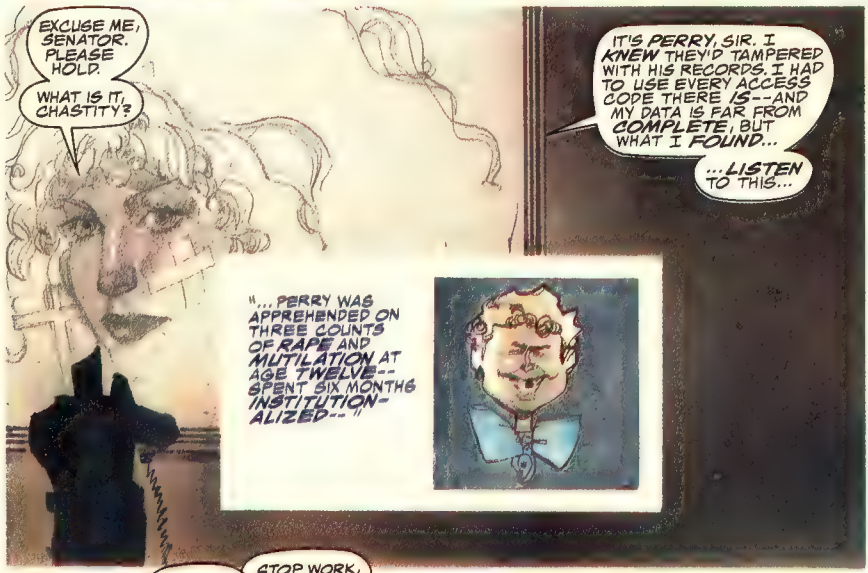
"I CANNOT, HOWEVER, REGARD THIS INFORMATION AS CONCLUSIVE. PERRY'S RECORDS MAY HAVE BEEN ALTERED. I WILL CONTINUE MY PROBE OF THE BANKS..."


TELLING YOU, CHUCK, THERE'S SHITS AND THERE'S SHITS.
FURY, THOUGH...
--FURY'S A WAR HERO SHIT. LIKE MY DAD.
I MEAN, BEAKER AND WRECK, THEY'RE SHITS, RIGHT? BUT THEY'RE SCARED SHITS.
EVER TELL YOU WHAT I DID TO MY DAD, CHUCK?
I MEAN, SHIT...
DR. BEAKER--THE SENATE VOTE ON FUNDING FOR EXTECHOP COMES UP TOMORROW. I WANT SOMETHING TO SHOW THEM.
YOU HAVE SIX HOURS TO COMPLETE PERRY'S RECONSTRUCTION. HE IS NOT TO BE ACTIVATED WITHOUT MY PERSONAL AUTHORIZATION.
SOON THEY WILL ALL BE AT YOUR MERCY, PERRY.
SOON THEY WILL BEG
AND CRAWL
FOR YOUR MERCY...
I EXPECT A FULL REPORT AND AN OPERATIONAL SUPER-AGENT BY SUNRISE.
THEN WE'LL BEGIN YOUR FORMAL DEBRIEFING ON EXTECHOP--AND ITS RECRUITMENT POLICIES.
GET TO WORK.
COLONEL'S GETTING PISSY, HUH, CHUCK?
COMING DOWN ON BEAKER LIKE A SON OF A BITCH.
NOTHING LIKE WATCHING A SHIT GET SHIT ON, HUH?
THE COLONEL MAY FEEL ANY WAY HE LIKES, OH VESSEL OF FATE...
...BUT PLEASE--LET US SPEAK SILENTLY...


GUYS. HEY.
GETTING ANY?
COULDN'T REMEMBER TO DETACH THE VOCALS, COULD YOU, CARLSON?
S.H.I.E.L.D
PROGRESS REPORT, 0300 HOURS. THE INTEGRATION OF SUPER-AGENT PERRY PROCEEDS APACE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL MEET THE 0600 HOURS DEADLINE. PERRY'S SKELETON AND NERVOUS SYSTEM NEAR COMPLETION...
S.H.I.E.L.D
...AND, USING THE SPECTACULAR FACILITIES AVAILABLE HERE ON THE HELICARRIER, WE HAVE EXPANDED ON OUR ORIGINAL BLUE-PRINTS--ACTUALIZING UNHEARD-OF CAPABILITIES FOR THE SUPER-AGENT.
ALLOYS DEVELOPED HERE--BUT, AS YET, UNAVAILABLE AT OUR SAN CONCERCION BASE, HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE FORMATION OF A FUNCTIONAL, AND NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE INTERIOR STRUCTURE. FURTHER, WE HAVE INCORPORATED EXTENSIVE AND HIGHLY POTENT WEAPONRY IN HIS DESIGN.
THIS WEAPONRY WILL BE ITEMIZED IN THE WRITTEN REPORT. SUFFICE IT TO SAY, BY DAWN WE WILL HAVE EQUIPPED A SINGLE OPERATIVE WITH UNPRECEDENTED DESTRUCTIVE POWER.
S.H.I.E.L.D

SHOULDN'T DRINK THIS STUFF
CAN'T SETTLE DOWN
NO REASON TO SETTLE DOWN
EVERYTHING OKAY
NOTHING TO DO HERE
JUST A DREAM
MIGHT AS WELL GO TO THE OFFICE
NO HARM IN GOING TO THE OFFICE
BYPASS
GOD
DAMN
NO
HARM
CODE.
NNMGEHH
...NEVER DRINK AGAIN...
...SHE'S GONE. GONE OUT.
NO TELLING WHEN SHE'LL BE BACK.
MOUTH TASTES LIKE SOMETHING DIED IN IT...
THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE.
NNGFN
CHANCE TO GET FREE OF HER. DIE IF I DON'T. BITCH'LL KILL ME.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER SHE'LL KILL ME.
JUST OPEN THE DOOR, GARRETT. HOTWIRE ONE OF THOSE STATION WAGONS AND DRIVE.
NFFN
KOFK
KAFFSHIT...
...WHOM I TRYIN' KID... ?





"--RELEASED, READMITTED FOR TREATMENT FOLLOWING THE BRUTAL MURDER OF HIS PARENTS AND SISTER--

"--ESCAPED AT FOURTEEN, FELL IN WITH A LOS ANGELES STREET GANG--

"--ARRESTED AT AGE SIXTEEN FOR SELLING POISONED HEROIN TO SCHOOL CHILDREN--

SECURITY--

--IMPOUND ALL EXTECHOP MATERIAL--ARREST BEAKER AND WRECK--MAKE SURE PERRY IS NOT FUNCTIONAL--

"--SPOTTY EVIDENCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN A SNUFF FILM OPERATION--

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING, SENATOR.

PLEASE INFORM THE COMMITTEE THAT THE EXTECHOP PROPOSAL IS WITHDRAWN.

COLLINS! ESTEVEZ! I WANT AN ARMORED COMBAT SQUAD DOWN THERE IN THIRTY SECONDS.

YES, SIR

BE READY FOR WAR.

CHASTITY! KEEP TRANSMITTING.

VERY GOOD, SIR.

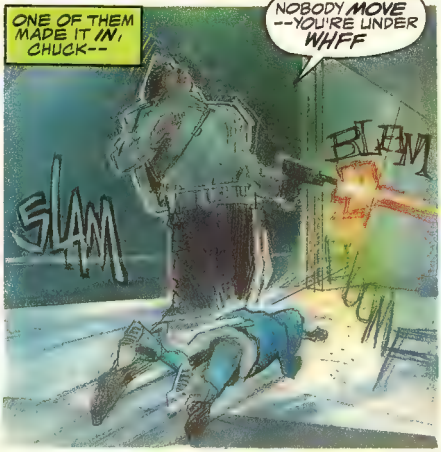
ALL PERSONNEL --THE COLONEL HAS SIGNALLED A RED ALERT. ASSUME COMBAT STATUS AND AWAIT INSTRUCTION.

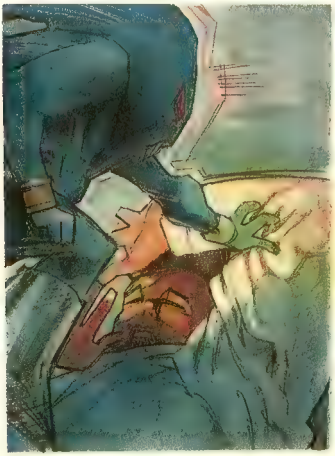
"CONTINUING, SIR. AT AGE EIGHTEEN, PERRY FELL IN WITH A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IN LEBANON--

"--PARTICIPATED IN THE SLAUGHTER OF FOURTEEN CIVILIAN ISRAELI HOSTAGES--"

--INSIST YOU PUT ME THROUGH TO FURY--THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDER-STANDING--
ALL YOUR FAULT, BEAKER!
HAD TO PUSH YOUR LUCK!
SECURITY COMING, CHUCK. I COULD USE A MINUTE OR TWO TO WARM UP.
AS YOU COMMAND, HONORED WARRIOR.

FREEZE IN THERE--
LOWERING THE BARRIER--
MOVE IT--
KA-THUNK!


ONE OF THEM MADE IT IN, CHUCK--
NOBODY MOVE --YOU'RE UNDER WHFF
SLAM
BLAM



KRAK!

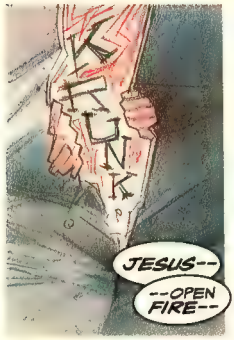
--GOOD GOD--
HAD TO PUSH YOUR LUCK YOU SON OF A BITCH--

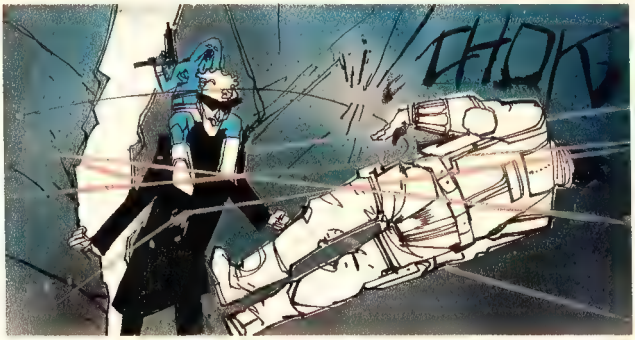
HAD TO P
BLAM

HEY. CHUCK. PAL.
CHILL.
I MEAN, BEAKER--

--HE'S ALL MINE.
SKRIK

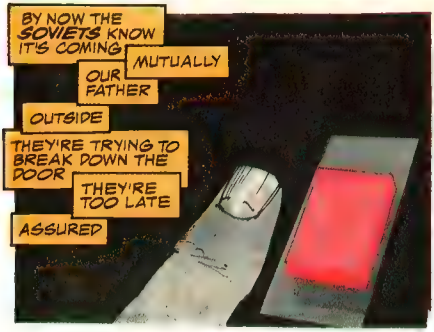
ALMOST GOT IT--ALMOST GOT IT--
GUNS READY
COLONEL'S ON HIS WAY
KKKREEEEE
HEY--
THE DOOR --IT'S--
WHAT THE HELL...

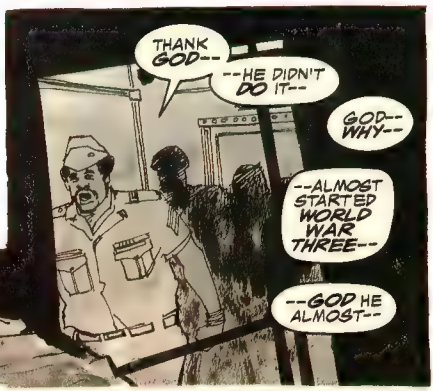

KLUNK
JESUS--
--OPEN FIRE--

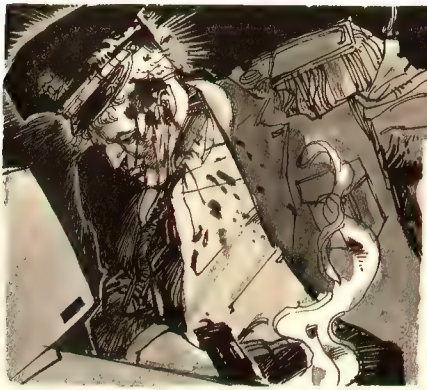

CHOK

THERE--
--OPEN FIRE--
MORE COMING, PROUD SERVANT OF DARKNESS.
TOO MANY.
TAKE A LOOK, CHUCK.
I MEAN, SHIT--
--TORE KRUPP'S FACE CLEAN OFF.
THE PORTHOLE, BELOVED WEAPON OF DESTINY--
--THE PLAN--
RIGHT, RIGHT...
KKSSH
MOTHER--
CEASE FIRE.
RIGHT THROUGH IT-- MAN, WE'RE THIRTY THOUSAND FEET UP--
--THAT'S SUICIDE--
HAVE RADAR GET A FIX ON HIM. SCRAMBLE THE COPTERS. HE MAY SURVIVE. WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT.

VIDEO MEMORANDUM TO COLONEL FURY, AGENT CHASTITY McBRYDE, DICTATING, AT 0600 HOURS.
I AM COMMITTING TO THE CENTRAL BANKS WHAT I REGARD AS DATA PERTINENT TO THE CASE OF ARTHUR PERRY.
THIS, AS YOU KNOW, IS THE AS YET UNIDENTIFIED ASSASSIN OF SOUTH AMERICAN PRESIDENTE CARLOS HUEVOS AND U.S. AMBASSADOR REICH. I HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE TO LINK HER WITH PERRY.
THE WOMAN WAS BRIEFLY HELD PRISONER AT OUR BASE AT SAN CONCEPCION. BEFORE SHE ESCAPED, A FULL RANGE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS WERE RUN ON HER. AN UNUSUAL NARCOTIC WAS FOUND IN HER BLOOD.
DR. WRECK REPORTED THAT THIS NARCOTIC WAS UNKNOWN TO MODERN SCIENCE; AND THAT ITS EFFECTS ON THE WOMAN WERE UNPRECEDENTED. ACCORDING TO WRECK, IT ALTERED THE VERY STRUCTURE OF THE WOMAN'S BRAIN.
WRECK WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT THE SUBSTANCE EFFECTED A CASE OF GENETIC REGRESSION--ADAPTING THE WOMAN'S BRAIN TO THE MORE IMMEDIATE SENSORY NEEDS OF AN ANIMAL. THIS MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HER REMARKABLE SPEED AND FEROCITY...
REVIEWING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORT PREPARED BY THE HELICARRIER MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, I FOUND THAT TRACES OF THE SAME SUBSTANCE WERE FOUND IN THE BRAIN OF ARTHUR PERRY. WE CANNOT DETERMINE HOW IT WAS ADMINISTERED TO HIM...
...AND THE AMOUNT IN HIS SYSTEM IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THAT FOUND IN THE WOMAN. NO CHANGES IN PERRY'S BRAIN HAVE BEEN NOTED. STILL, THIS IS AN INDICATION THAT PERRY MAY BE, IN SOME WAY AFFILIATED WITH THE WOMAN. FURTHER TESTS OF THE NARCOTIC ARE IN PROGRESS...







...WHEN I'M ELECTED I PROMISE A NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT-- A UNITY OF PURPOSE...

YOU KNOW, HONEY...
...WE NEVER TALK...
AMMO

COMMUNIQUÉS

c/o Epic Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10016

Dear Messrs. Miller, Sienkiewicz & Goodwin,

Y'know, something strange has been going on in comic books for the past couple of years. A lot of extremely interesting and entertaining books have been coming out of several companies, and most of them seem to have either the name **Miller** or **Moore** in the creative credits. There's also occasionally been this fellow, **Sienkiewicz** by name, who used to be content to draw just like another much-imitated artist, and do it well. Then this guy somehow got assigned to a hitherto rather artistically innocuous book about little genetic deviants, and proceeded to turn the book on its head with wild experimental art which pissed off a lot of readers ("That nut doesn't know how to draw! These bodies are all out of proportion! The art's too dark for the mood of the book!", etc.), and pleased quite a few, who realized that the artist in question did know how to draw bodies in proper proportion, but used his technical skill as a starting point for manipulation of images in order to provoke emotional reactions and offbeat aesthetic design appreciation from the reader.

Now **Miller** and **Sienkiewicz** have collaborated on a limited comic series starring the first character **Miller** created as a professional comics scripter: a female Greek assassin, named after a classical character and a psychological syndrome, whose training by ninja set off a huge comics craze in the early Eighties. The book is unsettlingly dark in tone, mixes realistic political mayhem and insanity with supernatural elements—an oriental *genma* with a Christian name—narrated in the first person by two characters who, by dint of their own instability, are saner than the people and events swirling around them. **Miller** responds to this storytelling challenge with a narrative style that jumps without warning between plot exposition and stream of consciousness observations. This type of thing has been done before, often to deliberately confuse the reader in the mistaken belief that great art lies simply in not being comprehensible. But never has it been accomplished with such a lucid, clear-headed knowledge by the writer of who the characters were and what a good story is—knowledge which the willing reader can unearth by using his or her head. **Sienkiewicz,** once again, has used his previous art experiments as a starting point from which to innovate further. His art here takes advantage of the comic book format to tell the story in a manner which would not have worked anywhere else: changing art styles from panel to panel, manipulating line, shape and color to illustrate, add to, and sometimes supersede the words of the narrative.

How are the readers taking this package? Many despise it—they still complain about the lack of conventional comic art sensibility in **Sienkiewicz's** work, or find **Miller's** script too wordy, pretentious and complex. Then there are those of us who believe that, while different does not necessarily in itself mean excellence, excellence can often thrive in a different setting.

In other words, I am deeply enjoying every issue so far of **Elektra: Assassin,** and regret that not all fans can find in it the unique wonder that I see.

Daniel Phillip Barer
Santa Monica, CA

Dear Frank,

I have to share the skepticsm I have heard voiced about your larger political viewpoints, but you write about individuals very, very well. In particular, I like the romantic angle in the **Elektra** mini-series. Unlike the **Hawkeye** mini-series, which tried and miserably failed to create some evidence of affection between the two main characters, (I still can't get over the sudden and utterly passionless marriage that he jumped into at the end of that.) I get the feeling that Garrett and Elektra really, really like each other.

Garrett is smart enough to know just how good Elektra really is. Elektra likes that and keeps showing off for him. Naturally, this means she has to beat him up a lot, but she just doesn't seem to be able to bring herself to kill him. Their breaking rules for each other, their being a tangible presence for each other and other things, makes it very easy for me to imagine them sitting outdoors somewhere, one's head in the other's lap, a wine and cheese picnic spread out nearby, just talking for hours. I've also had a lot of fun thinking of how they'd consummate their passion for one another (I figure she'd jump him in the dark, giggling like a schoolgirl).

I did not like the masochistic speech she gave to Garrett while tied up, and I can't believe that that would turn anybody on, but I guess it fits in with her view of all men as rapists. Has she *ever* had a pleasant sexual experience?

Anyway, the art is great and is, for once, well worth putting on better paper.

Richard L. Gardner
Winchester, MA

epic-grams

KANT, SCHOPENHAUER, DESCARTES AND ME

At several comic conventions, I've been on panels about editing comic books. One question various moderators seem to ask is: "What is your editorial philosophy?" My inclination is to say something like: "Well, I favor Nietzschean will on deadlines combined with Santayanaesque idealism in plotting sessions." Fortunately, I never follow this inclination and usually wind up hemming and hawing that "mostly I try to produce books that I'd like to read." (For you who don't get to comic conventions, I'll reveal that this is also pretty much my answer on writers panels when asked: "What is your approach to writing comics?") And, a few other factors aside, that really basically *is* my editorial philosophy. If *you're* not interested in it, how can you expect someone *else* to be?

YOU WERE INTERESTED IN *THAT*?!

Very much so. What can I tell you? (A) I thought it would come out much better. I was wrong. (B) Even though you didn't like it, it's developed a strong audience of its own, only they keep complaining about the books you like. (C) Both of the above.

A complaint that our editor in chief **Jim Shooter** often has to deal with is that **Marvel** is so successful that the company is afraid to tamper with that success by trying anything different. The **Epic** line was one way Jim dealt with that. We often experiment in our books—with subject matter, with packaging, with story–telling techniques. An experiment can sometimes go wrong, or it may not be to everyone's liking. It can also succeed fantastically. And that's why we like to keep doing them. But we're a comics line; we want readers, not guinea pigs. Every book is not necessarily a test or challenge. We definitely don't consider it a failure if all we do is entertain you.

OUR SECRET DISCRIMINATION

That said, a confession: from the beginning of **Epic**, another part of my editorial philosophy has been to steer away from one of the most entertaining—and popular—genres in comics: superheroes. Why? Well, I felt **Marvel** was already doing superheroes and doing them about as well as they could be done. Why get back in the "repeating the same old success" rut? Or go into competition with ourselves? The response to our **Elektra: Assassin** book and Marvel's **New Universe** line, as well as some fine competitive titles, such as **The Watchmen,** have made me rethink that stand.

THROUGH THE CRYSTAL BALL, CLOUDILY

No. We're not going to suddenly abandon the many diverse and unique types of **Epic** books we've been doing (In fact, by next time around, we'll be able to tell you about something very special from **Marc DeMatteis,** writer of **Moonshadow,** and artist **Kent Williams.** It's called **Blood**). But by the summer of next year, you *will* be seeing several titles in what is the superhero genre. One will probably involve established **Marvel** heroes but, as in **Elektra: Assassin,** with a startling new art and story perspective. Three other titles will be brand new characters which all interrelate and involve a central concept that to our knowledge has never been done before in comics. Rest assured that as this develops we'll be much too weak–willed to keep it to ourselves.

—**Archie Goodwin**

checklist

NOVEMBER

ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN #6—Elektra and Garrett discover preppie ninjas, sociopathic cyborgs and honeymoon getaways all figure in to "What We're Fighting For" by Frank Miller & Bill Sienkiewicz. *Adult themes, language & nudity.*

ELFQUEST #20—A gift from the High Ones burns with danger for Cutter in "Fine Feathers" by Wendy & Richard Pini.

GROO THE WANDERER #25—No city is safe from a man obsessed with cheese dip as Groo ineptly demonstrates in "Divide & Conquer" by Sergio Aragonés with Mark Evanier.

MOONSHADOW #11—In the clutches of the fanatical Pobidiah Unkshuss, Moonshadow is confronted with myriad and deadly "Contradictions" by Marc DeMatteis & Jon J Muth. *Adult themes, language & nudity.*

STEELGRIP STARKEY #5—Globelock's Ironarm Gantry pits his construction crew against the Star Key bunch to prove who's "King of the Steel Drivin' Men" by Alan Weiss, Val Mayerik & Sam de la Rosa.

SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #11—Black Bess uses the Colonizer Queen to exact revenge on Raader. "Whatever Happened to Black Bess?" by Bill Mantlo, Colleen Doran & Ricardo Villamonte. *Adult themes, language & nudity.*

DECEMBER

ALIEN LEGION #18—by Zelenetz, Stroman & Emberlin.

ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN #7—by Miller & Sienkiewicz.

ELFQUEST #21—by Wendy & Richard Pini.

GROO THE WANDERER #26—by Aragonés with Evanier.

MOONSHADOW #11—by DeMatteis & Muth.

STEELGRIP STARKEY #6—by Weiss & Rubinstein.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

THE ALIEN LEGION GRAPHIC NOVEL—A Grey Day to Die—Humanity is threatened by a crazed megalomaniacal dictator and his bio-technoid warriors. Only The Alien Legion can stop galactic anarchy. By Carl Potts, Alan Zelenetz, Frank Cirocco, Terry Austin and Steve Oliff.

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN... IN

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